

form of any butterfly; on the contrary, it is generally larger than the other. I feel sure that experiments on this line, carried out with the perseverance and care of Col. Manders, would yield valuable results.

E. H. AITKEN.

THE RED SEA, 22nd May, 1907.

No. XV.—OCCURRENCE OF THE SIBERIAN BLUE CHAT
(*LARVIVORA CYANEA*) IN THE HAZARA DISTRICT.

On the 20th of June, when searching for the nests of *Larvivora brunnea* (The Indian Blue Chat), a common bird up here, I came across, under the following circumstances and much to my astonishment, a pair of *Larvivora cyanea* (The Siberian Blue Chat). I was seated among thick bushes on the side of a rocky and precipitous hill, when I became aware of a small brown bird perched on a twig in front of me. At first I thought it was a female *L. brunnea*, but the smaller size, the whiteness of the throat and breast, and the amount of rufous on the tail puzzled me considerably. While I was looking at her, she gave a call note and presently hearing a rustle on my right, I turned slowly round and saw not more than 8 or 10 feet from me what I have little doubt was a male *L. cyanea*. It differed from *brunnea* in the absence of the white supercilium and rufous breast, the throat being white and the breast a dirty buffish white. It also appeared smaller. In other respects it resembled *brunnea*. I had a good look at the bird through glasses, as well as with the naked eye, before it was lost to sight in the thick cover below. For a week following I haunted the vicinity of the spot where I had chanced on these rare birds, but unfortunately without again seeing them. The pair must have nested somewhere on the hill.

H. A. F. MAGRATH, MAJOR.

THANDIANI, HAZARA DIST., 27th June, 1907.

No. XVI.—THE ENEMIES OF SNAKES.

The following was communicated to me yesterday by an officer stationed here, and, as the incident strikes one as out of the common, I am sending you the description for record in the Society's Journal:—

"Our full grown Buff Orpington fowl was reported to me by my sweeper to be ill. I went and looked at it and found, to all outward appearances, the fowl was perfectly fit, but it seemed to have something wrong with its throat as it kept on coughing and I felt a hard substance in its crop. In the course of 28 hours it died, and I had it cut open and found in it a snake eighteen inches long."

M. B. ROBERTS, MAJOR,

1-39th Garhwal Rifles.

LANSDOWNE, GARHWAL, U.P., 24th June, 1907.